

wherein

EO represents an ethyleneoxy group;

PO represents a propyleneoxy group;

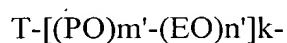
T represents an OH group or SO_3M wherein M represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, an inorganic base, or an organic amine;

m and n are each an integer;

k is a natural number of not less than 1; and

R represents

a C_{4-10} branched or straight chain alkyl group or a group comprising R_a bonded to a C_{4-10} branched or straight chain alkyl group, wherein R_a represents a group represented by the following formula:



wherein

EO, PO, T and k each are as defined above; and

n' and m' are respectively n and m,

EO and PO being arranged, regardless of order in the parentheses, randomly or as blocks joined together,

n or $n + n'$ being 1 to 10 with m or $m + m'$ being 0 to 5 when n and m and n' and m' are expressed in terms of the average value for the mixture of compounds represented by formula (I) contained in the ink.

Claim 2 (amended) The ink according to claim 1, wherein the compounds, represented by formula (I), constituting the mixture each are such that T represents an OH group.

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Claim 3 (amended) The ink according to claim 1, wherein the compounds, represented by formula (I), constituting the mixture each are such that T represents an OH group.

Claim 5 (amended) The ink according to claim 1, wherein the compounds, represented by formula (I), constituting the mixture each are such that EO represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$, PO represents $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$, and T represents an OH group, R, EO, PO, and T being attached to one another in that order to represent formula $\text{R}-(\text{EO})_n-(\text{PO})_m-\text{T}$.

Claim 6 (amended) The ink according to claim 1, wherein the mixture of compounds represented by formula (I) is composed of:

a compound represented by formula (I) wherein T represents an OH group, R,

EO, PO, and T being attached to one another in that order to represent formula $\text{R}-(\text{EO})_n-(\text{PO})_m-\text{T}$; and

a compound represented by formula (I) wherein T represents an OH group, R,

EO, PO, and T being attached to one another in that order to represent formula R-

$(\text{PO})_m-(\text{EO})_n-\text{T}$.

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Claim 10 (amended) The ink according to claim 1, wherein R represents a straight-chain $\text{C}_7\text{--C}_{10}$ group.

Please add the following new claim: